



Executive Meeting Minutes 8th April 2017, 1.00pm, Aberystwyth Boat Club

Members Present

Andrew Richards (Vice Chair and Assistant to the Committee), **Wisemans**; Tina Parsons (Secretary), Paul Parsons, **Ynys Mon**; Chris Haines (Race Officer), **Aberystwyth**; Leo O'Connor (On Behalf of Mid Region Rep), **Aberaeron**; Tony Peters (Safety Officer), **Barry**; Jill Gloster (Child Protection and Welfare Officer), Richard Gloster (Northern Representative) **Porthmadog**; Nicola Thomas (Southern Representative), Jac Davies, **Towy**; Laura Kentfield (Welsh Rowing).

Apologies

Pete Fletcher (Chairman/Treasurer), Dave Reynolds (Publicity/Webmaster), Sam English (Training Officer), Carol Davies (Membership Secretary), Jane O'Connor (Mid Region Representative)

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a true record of events. Verified by Nic T and seconded by Jill G.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Treasurers Update

Latest WSRA bank balance as of 27 March 2017, bank balance is £17,969.83. This is slightly down on December's figure; however, there are still membership fees to be deposited.

New signatories on WSRA cheques is underway, paperwork is in progress to add both the Vice Chairman and the Race Officer to the signatory list along with the Treasurer. Previous signatories will be removed as soon as this process is complete. It is hoped that this will be by the end of the week.

Jill G mentioned that as from the 1st April money would have to be paid for the monthly DBS checks. She did look into setting up a direct debit but it couldn't be done until signatories were changed, therefore they will need to be paid by cheque until the Direct Debit is completed. The invoices from WSA will be sent on a monthly basis to Jill, who will send to Pete F for payment.

Affiliation/Membership Update

No membership update was available. The Membership Secretary wished it to be noted that some clubs were still missing various bits of paperwork to complete their affiliation, and that she was still waiting for confirmation on BACS payments, as she hadn't been notified who had paid, how much, and when. She would be emailing out to clubs to try and clarify these issues this weekend. The Secretary will send an email to the league asking clubs who paid by BACS to let Carol know.

Development and Update on WSRA Coxing and Coaching Courses

As Sam E was unable to attend the meeting, she provided an update on training in general, this can be found as Appendix A.

It was noted that there is only 1 week left to register for the Man Overboard Course. There were currently only 3 people registered and the course cannot run unless it has 8 people. Lots of people have expressed an interest in doing it, but haven't actually registered via the British Rowing link. A MOB will be arranged to run in the South again in the future.

Chris H asked whether there is any intention to run an indoor rowing event in other areas. Laura K asked that he get in touch with her, as she would need a minimum of 8 people, using 3 concepts, but can do it for 15 max. with more machines. Chris H said he would be interested in holding one in Aberystwyth as they already have 2 concepts, Laura confirmed that Welsh Rowing could arrange to supply extra machines to accommodate more people. The indoor rowing event is a 4 hour session and costs £60 per person, it is not for a coaching qualification but is Welsh Rowing's version of a level 1 skills activity.

Nic T confirmed that Towy also has 2 concepts and very good facilities which they could provide, including a teaching room and whiteboard; it is also located close to Wisemans, so maybe clubs could combine there.

Action: Laura K will send out a brochure to the Secretary so this can be forwarded to the Regional Reps to take forward to all their clubs to gauge interest, and this can then be fed back through Sam E.

Jill G said she didn't get any feedback from any Welfare Officers attending the 'Time to Listen' course which was prepared by the Hockey Association. Notice was short and the last one was in Newtown which wasn't really central for anybody, so Jill wondered whether it might be worth setting one up in the North as the course should be attended by all Child Protection Officers as a refresher after doing the SCP. Laura K said that last time Welsh Rowing set up a Child Protection course, which would have covered the same information, the outdoor partnership set one up for £5 per person, so nobody signed onto the Welsh Rowing one and it had to be cancelled, so she queried the worth of setting up another one incase the same thing happened. Jill G said she needed to contact club Welfare Officers to find out who needed to do the SCP course and the Time to Listen course, and who just needed the Time to Listen course before she could estimate numbers. Laura said she could look into setting one up if the interest was there.

The Secretary mentioned that Jackie Southworth had now completed putting the coxing training programme together after consultation with all clubs and some individual members and had worked closely with David Thompson when putting the materials together. This programme had been shared with the committee prior to the meeting. The intention is that Sam, Jackie and any other people who are part of the training team, will meet shortly to run through the programme including the race coxing workshop materials, to discuss them and make any tweaks if necessary. It is hoped that the final version will be made available to all clubs in the near future. Jackie had moved forward in making the WSRA independent for arranging and delivering training.

Chris H mentioned that he had spoken with Jackie about the MOB course on 23rd April, as she was concerned that Sam may not be able to be assessed on that course as she had not been trained to coach that as yet. Laura K confirmed that British Rowing are currently trying to source an assessor and that as long as the course has a practical element and a theory element, then Sam could be assessed doing it, as part of her final assessment for the Level 3. As she has to do both a theory and a practical session, the MOB is ideal for this purpose, the only prerequisite is that it is a British Rowing Course.

Nic T mentioned that there are a lot of good on-line courses available through the British Rowing website, which she could recommend, but you have to be a paid up member of British rowing to have access to them. Laura K felt that there was a cheaper rate available if you just wanted to access British Rowing resources through 'Row How' rather than paying full membership. It was asked whether there was a British Rowing non-member rate for MOB courses if the individual is wishing to do it as a stand-alone course rather than completing the Level 2

Coaching Course, as there didn't seem to be the option to register on the course as a non-member even though British Rowing advertise a non-member rate.

Action: Laura to check on this and the lower tier price for resources. This information will be supplied to the Secretary to be shared with all clubs.

Minimum Age to Cox a Race is 18 - Exceptions for Two Experienced Coxes

Chris H proposed that the two specific individuals, from PYC and Fishguard, who had been coxing in races previous seasons, and had attended the Race Coxing Workshop, which had taken place prior to the Executive Meeting, should be signed off to cox races this season. This was proposed to be an exception for these two individuals only as they were experienced, and that the 18 years old to cox rule was to stand for everyone else for the rest of this season. Nic T stated that anyone who has not coxed races before should go through the programme and that she would need to check with Fishguard that their junior has actually coxed races before and wasn't just in training for race coxing, as if that were the case he should go through the programme just the same as everyone else. Chris hoped that attending the Race Coxing Workshop would give them a good enough understanding of their responsibilities on the water. Chris H added that race coxes should go through a theory workshop, and then be signed off by their own club coaches and Safety Officer as a practical element, after completing the coxing programme and proving they are competent on the water. Chris added that he felt the club coach wouldn't necessarily have to be a qualified coach as there are a number of clubs that don't have a qualified coach, or have lots of coaches not all of whom are qualified, but who might be really good at what they do and very experienced, and he would be just as happy if these people were to sign off coxes as competent. The sheet which Jackie Southworth has put together as part of the coxing programme, entitled 'Coxing a League race' was reviewed and Jill G agreed that this looked ideal.

Chris H said that Sam E is planning to run a Race Coxing Workshop similar to the one done today, on a regular basis, although realistically this may not be until after this race season, so there wouldn't be any other junior coxes who would be able to cox this season, this exception was purely for the two individuals already put through the Race Coxing Workshop today.

As the Race Coxing Workshop was filmed, if it works it is hoped that this might be good enough to roll out to all clubs to view for information, but it wouldn't replace the workshop. There is no substitution for having a person deliver a course and being able to ask questions.

Chris H mentioned that the workshop could be delivered over two evenings rather than taking up half a day on the weekend, and clubs could join together for this.

Jane O had a statement from Cardigan Club that they didn't want any under 18s coxing at the Mermaid Race for safety reasons, they needed very experienced coxes only due to the treacherous nature of the waters. It was clarified that non-league race event organisers can set their own local rules based on local knowledge, regardless of whether they state they are running the event under WSRA rules.

The age for coxing league races remains at 18. Proposal that an exception be made for the two juniors who attended the Race Coxing Workshop earlier, to be signed off to cox races this season, as they have the prior race coxing experience. (On the proviso that they are signed off for the practical element by their club Safety Officer and coach). First proposer Chris H, seconded by Andrew R. Vote: 7 for, 1 abstain. Proposal carried.

Clarification on 'What is a Novice'

The Secretary had been asked on a few occasions for clarification, and although some people had been told a novice was a person rowing 6 months or under, others had been told it was people who were within their first year of registration (1st April – 31st March).

Nic T mentioned that this was discussed at length about 3 years ago. In that previous conversation it was ruled that individuals could only be a novice in their first registered season (this does not mean first race season), this means that if an individual were to register in February, at the end of the season, when they re-register for the new season which commences on 1st April, even though they had only been rowing 2 months, they would no longer be classed

as a novice. Laura K asked if it could work if they were permitted to row for one full race season as a novice, but it was felt that some people might join towards the latter part of the race season and then still be rowing as a novice all next season as they hadn't yet done a full one. It was felt it was easier for us as an association to just state one affiliated season, as agreed 3 years ago. It was noted that if individuals rowing longer than one season wish to enter a novice race, they are welcome to do so, but the crew then has to be entered non-competitively and their non-novice status should be declared on the entry form.

Action: Secretary to place a note on the website under Novice Races, to state they are only classed as a novice in their first year affiliated, i.e. 1st April until 31st March.

Carried Items to Run For a Whole Season Before They Can Be Overturned

The Secretary had raised this issue as every time a meeting took place, items were discussed at length and voted on, only to appear back on the agenda at the next meeting to be discussed again and sometimes overturned. This was becoming an issue, because every time a rule or guideline was changed, any documentation stating the previous facts had to be edited and reissued to clubs, and also replaced on the website. As a result of any change decided at any meeting, the secretary has to read through all the WSRA guidance documents and information to ensure that changes are captured in everything, and to make sure that we don't have conflicting information. The Secretary felt that once a decision has been made and voted on, it should stand for one whole season, to avoid all the rework and confusion. Nic T suggested that if rules are to be reviewed they should be brought to the AGM, and that would be the opportunity to change them.

Proposal to keep carried items for one whole season: Proposed by Tina P, Seconded by Andrew R. Vote: 8 for, 0 against. Proposal carried.

Discussion Regarding Potential Purchase of another WSRA Boat, and Review of Quotes for Purchasing a Yole

Chris H reiterated that any decisions regarding the purchase of another boat must be taken to the whole of the WSRA for consideration, discussion and a vote, as this is quite a big monetary commitment.

Nic T explained that all the quotes she and Jac had prepared for the meeting were all for yoles and were all for FISA style boats, as these were the only type that would be permitted to enter an international event. She clarified that Towy as a club have enough boats of their own, 2 singles and 2 doubles, which is enough to support their own rowers, but to maintain the Welsh Squad there are not enough as they can have 30 rowers on a weekend, so with only 4 boats the coaches are on the water for 5 hours, which can't be maintained long-term. They are helped by people having private boats and will be hiring the WSRA yole as of July, but there still aren't enough. It would be ideal if they could have access to a quad for training and development, as the quad has a cox, so it's safer. They are already trying to raise money for this.

Richard G stated that we need to develop yole rowing for the U14s as it is sculling rather than sweep and the boats aren't as heavy in the water, so the yole type boats are much better suited to young junior needs. Chris H added that with the shortage of yoles, that Teifi Skiffs would be a very good option for juniors to row as they are also skulling boats and clubs could look into using these. Nic T recommended that with yoles, unless you had a quad with a cox, she wouldn't advise them for club development because of the safety issues, as the juniors are out at sea on their own, otherwise the amount of safety boat cover is a factor. Andrew R stated that the WSRA couldn't pay out the full cost of a quad. Laura K said that if a club said they needed a boat for participation (not competition) regardless of the type of boat, that club could apply for a Sports Wales Development Grant as we are all affiliated to Welsh Rowing. The club would have to find 20% of the cost and Sports Wales would cover the other 80%, Laura would be happy to work on the application forms with WSRA or individual clubs. Laura would be happy to provide further information on this to any club that wishes to contact her. It was suggested that possibly the club applying for the grant could be Towy, and that they could state it was required for the development of junior rowers, and that the WSRA could pay the 20%. The boat would be a

WSRA boat, but the host club could be Towy, until it may be required for development purposes elsewhere.

Nic T mentioned the dimensions of a quad, that they are about 11' longer than a Celtic, and about 10kg heavier, with a specialised trailer, this is a consideration for anybody considering towing one. The cost of a trailer on its own is approx £3500, Laura advised that as the grant could be for a maximum of £25K, it would be as well to include the trailer, oars etc in the application package, and that Sports Wales would prefer clubs to purchase new rather than second hand because of longevity and warranty. She also added that any club can apply individually for the Sports Wales Development Grant, it isn't just a one off, but would advise that we get one application through at a time.

It was reiterated that this boat would be for participation at club level only, and could not be used for competitions.

Action: Jac D to get 3 solid quotes for the whole package, including the quad, oars, trailer and any other kit that would be required to make this a viable project to put to Sports Wales.

The WSRA must have full league approval to use money to put towards this package, so once the quotes are obtained, the Secretary will share the information with the whole league for deliberation.

Richard G pointed out that the WSRA generates approximately £2-£3K per year, so there is a justification that there are funds in the WSRA account to support this type of project.

Action: Secretary to share the proposal with the league when the full information on project cost is available; to ask for a vote to be taken as to whether the proposal can go ahead and agreement that the WSRA can fund 20% of project cost.

WSRA Flags and Banners and WSRA Sponsorship of League Events for Self-Promotion

Andrew R suggested that we need to publicise the WSRA better at our own race events, by displaying WSRA flags and banners. There are currently 2 teardrop flags in circulation, but they weren't used in many races last season. Andrew suggested that the WSRA could make a donation to each club that used them on their race days, which could be used towards race costs. Chris H pointed out that not all clubs struggle to make ends meet on race days, in fact a lot of clubs use the race day as a way to make money for their club.

Chris H suggested that to raise awareness maybe we could organise events at locations other than just our home races, maybe the WSRA could fund the organisation of events elsewhere. It was noted that this would take a lot of organising when we don't have people with the time, or local knowledge to do it. Andrew R suggested that the WSRA does need to get a couple more flags to go to each race. It was suggested that possibly the regional reps could ensure that the flags were taken to each race, and that there should be 2 flags for each region and one banner. Jill G also stated that the flags and banners should be in both Welsh and English.

Chris H agreed to get prices, and Tony P also offered as he is buying a printer and would only charge for the materials and inks etc

[Post Meeting Note: Flags and Banners may just be purchased for the Northern League and the Southern League as they can just be passed on from Race to Race, the current flags would be held by the mid region rep as a back-up].

Action: Chris H in liaison with Tony, to design, obtain quotes and feed back to committee.

Increase the Amount of Discount Code / Offers for Appropriate Equipment and Apparel for All WSRA Members/Clubs to Benefit From

Andrew R held up a print out of the links page off the website and individual entries were discussed. It was queried whether discounts were available for WSRA members who used these businesses, however, nobody was really sure of the details, and only a few of the names were recognised. Andrew suggested that all links needed to be investigated to see if they were still active, and if yes, what discounts were available, also whether they were appropriate for the

WSRA site, and also to increase the number of appropriate discounted links on there. Andrew quite happy to lead on this to develop the page, but would also like to liaise with Welsh Rowing to see whether we can tap into any of the same links that they have for the same discounts.

Action: Andrew R to develop this page in liaison with the WSRA webmaster on required changes, and with Welsh Rowing on possible related new links.

Dual Affiliation WSRA and Welsh Rowing

It had been put forward by Sam E that this could be discussed at the meeting and Welsh Rowing had provided a list of benefits of affiliation. Affiliation fees are £7.00 per adult, £4.50 per child and U13 are free, however, Laura K clarified that to take advantage of any benefits from Welsh Rowing, the whole club has to affiliate, i.e. each person individually, so if you were doing it so one person in your club could take advantage of a free, e.g. MOB course rather than paying the £10 as a non-member, then it doesn't make any financial sense.

Chris H asked about the insurance and whether it was for personal liability, as if it were there was already an overlap with what we already have. Andrew R confirmed that this was not actually necessary for us, as it was a complete overlap with what the WSRA is already providing, our current WSRA affiliation covers us for personal insurance, third party liability etc.

In terms of participation in Wales, Sea Rowing outnumbers River Rowing, approx 900+ members in Sea rowing and 800 in River Rowing. However, Welsh Rowing has a lot more clubs with a much bigger geographical spread.

As it currently stands the WSRA pays £500 per annum to Welsh rowing for our affiliation, as a fixed fee. It doesn't appear that there is any benefit to us from the list provided, in paying the £500 as all things listed we either already have, or are specific for river rowing clubs.

Andrew R asked whether Laura K could take this back to Welsh rowing to see whether the benefits could be tailored to suit our requirements as we are already covered for most of the items on the list.

Laura K added that the Sports Wales Development Grant can only be accessed through Welsh Rowing and that our affiliation also gives access to her time, she has also helped to arrange school information sessions / taster days about sea rowing. Also without affiliation to Welsh Rowing we would not be able to run the Level 2 Coaching Courses. The two grant funded posts would also only be available through affiliation to Welsh Rowing. All these benefits should be taken into consideration.

Action: Laura K to look into what other benefits could be offered to the WSRA as part of our current affiliation arrangement.

Funding from Sports Wales for 2 Posts to Develop Sea Rowing

An email with full details had been sent out to all clubs for discussion prior to the meeting. In brief, Welsh Rowing had obtained grant money for one financial year to fund two posts for one day per week (or 52 days per person used as required), one for the North, one for the South. The purpose of the roles was to assist in developing sea rowing and increase participation.

There had been 3 people who had put their names forward to be considered for these roles after the information had been circulated to all clubs by the Secretary, 2 for the South and one for the North. All details had been passed on to Helen Tan in Welsh rowing.

A list of suggestions of what the roles could entail had already been provided to Welsh Rowing. Andrew R also suggested that one of the jobs which could be considered as part of these roles may be organising a WSRA event in a different location for publicity, as mentioned by Chris earlier in the meeting.

Laura K said that a job advert would be raised within the next couple of weeks, which would go in the paper and on Welsh Rowing's website, a copy would also be sent to the WSRA Secretary to be sent out to all clubs. Once short listing had taken place, this would followed by a formal interview with Welsh Rowing, Laura requested that a WSRA Committee member also be present. Although the original email had asked for people with sea rowing coaching experience preferably, this would be a non-coaching role. The knowledge and experience was the important aspect.

The general feeling was that this could be a really good idea, and benefit WSRA affiliated clubs participation numbers without costing money.

Andrew R proposed that the project be supported and given the go-ahead by WSRA, seconded by Chris H. Vote: 8 for, 0 against. Proposal carried.

Under 14s Participation Event

Leo O reported that Aberaeron, Llangrannog and New Quay feel strongly that it be reinstated, stating that grant funding is often attracted by junior rowers. However, junior rowing is not in question here, just the U14s event on league race days. Aberporth were also in support but some other clubs in the league were not of the same opinion and did not believe that the U14s event should take place.

Chris H provided details of advice he had had from an orthopaedic consultant/surgeon last year, which was: rowing (especially fixed seat) puts considerable strain on the lower back and body. At under 14 years old, children's bones are still developing, the potential for injury / long-term damage is greater at this age, he did not advise even letting them row Celtics at under 14 let alone compete.

The participation event was never intended to be a competitive event, but unfortunately it never stays this way.

Andrew R read out a statement from Pete Fletcher, who advised skulling where possible for U14 development, and swapping sides often where they have to row sweep, he was keen to see U14 still being encouraged to row, but was not specific about the participation event. Andrew also read a section from an email sent by Neil Cross, Wiseman's junior coach. Neil Cross suggested a separate day specifically for juniors so it is more focussed on their needs, and suggested straight line races in heats throughout the day.

If there were a specific junior social rowing event, the Celtics could be rigged specifically for juniors and there could also be fun inclusive events for the U14s and taster sessions on the same day. It was suggested that the host club could supply the boats so that all visiting clubs didn't have to tow, and that the heats should be 3 – 4 boats on the water at a time, reducing the number of safety boats required. Also for clubs who didn't have enough juniors to make a full crew, crews could be made up on the day from different clubs. This idea was well received and it was suggested that a sub-committee be put together to work out when, where and how it could be organised and also to look into U14 participation in general. Andrew R suggested that Neil Cross head the sub-committee, Leo O will ask Jane O (mid rep) to see if a member of New Quay and Llangrannog would also like to be involved as they wanted the U14s event back, Laura K would also like to be involved. The sub-committee will report back to Chris H as Race Officer, who will report to the WSRA on progress.

It was also suggested that this may also be of interest to the person who takes over the grant funded post in which ever region it is being held.

The U14s event will not be reinstated for this race season as the decision has been made and was voted on at the time, and was not overturned at the AGM.

Action: Jane O to follow through on putting the sub-committee together and report back on progress.

Loan of WSRA Boats to Non-WSRA Clubs

We have had several requests recently for hire of the Celtic Longboat from non-affiliated clubs who wish to try out the sport, our current guidelines state that the WSRA boats can only be loaned to new clubs once they affiliate and once all their members (all those who will be rowing the boat) have paid their affiliation. Where this falls short is when people want to try it out and don't yet know whether they want to, or have enough interest to set up a club.

Andrew R stated that if we hired the boat to a non-WSRA affiliated club, equipment insurance would be difficult, as their cover would need to match our cover for excess etc approx £21 for every £1000 value, it would also be a can of worms for public liability as they would not be affiliated to anyone. The safest option would be for them to affiliate to another club.

Chris H suggested for a new club, that possibly the WSRA take the hit and cover their club affiliation of £149 for that first affiliation year, but that they do affiliate each of their individual members. This would cover all insurances, people, equipment etc for that first year. This would not mean that they could hire the WSRA loan boat for that full year, this is loaned out initially for a 2 month period, to be negotiated thereafter, they would need to try and find another boat to buy/loan moving forwards. If they liked the sport and affiliated to the WSRA, they could apply for the Sports Wales Development Grant for their own boat.

The WSRA covering the club affiliation in that first year would encourage more people to try out the sport and could lead to an increase the number of clubs we have across Wales. The WSRA Committee would be happy to work with any new sea rowing club to ensure they have all the necessary support whilst becoming established.

Jill G said if this is successful we may be in a position where there would be justification in purchasing a new Celtic for the WSRA, to support new clubs.

Proposal for WSRA to cover the first year of affiliation for new clubs: proposed by Chris H, seconded by Jill G. Vote: 8 for, 0 against. Proposal carried.

Action: Chris H notify REX club in Chester, of the change in loan policy to see if they wish to set up a sea rowing section and hire the WSRA Celtic, or whether they would rather affiliate as a group through another club and then hire the WSRA boat.

Action: Secretary to amend the WSRA loan documentation to reflect the above, and to inform the whole league of this new decision.

Action: Secretary to send out revised loan documentation and affiliation documentation to REX if they wish to join.

Creation of Job Descriptions for WSRA Committee Positions

More clarity is required on job descriptions for each role within the committee to avoid confusion amongst members as to who to go to with queries. This will also be of benefit moving forward when we come to the next AGM and roles are up for re-election. It is unlikely that people will put themselves forward for posts if it is unclear of what is involved. As some of the posts are new this time, the Secretary suggested that each person write their own job description as they see it at present and these can be reviewed by the Executive Committee to ensure there isn't a crossover in what we think are part of our roles. This may be an item to review them at the next Executive Meeting in July. Richard G was nominated to write the initial one on behalf of the Regional Representatives, to then be reviewed by all three of them together.

Once the descriptions are finalised, it was suggested that they be placed on the WSRA website, possibly a through a link on the 'contacts' tab.

Action: All Executive Committee to write job descriptions for their post.

Action: Secretary to put 'Review of Job Descriptions' as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Jill G mentioned that there were new guidelines out for data protection which each club should be aware of and possibly somebody within the WSRA should be trained on this. What is ok to send out, what can be stored and where, and what needs shredding etc.

Money for Registration for Child Protection and Safeguarding Course

Jackie Southworth had asked whether money could be allocated by the WSRA to fund the £85 registration fee to register the Safeguarding and Child Protection (SCP) courses. If the registration fee were covered then the only charge to go to the participant would be £10 per head. Several present were uncertain why there was an £85 registration fee, as many courses previously run in other areas had only charged the £10 per person (or around that figure). It was unclear whether these had just been in the South and whether the costs may have been

subsidised elsewhere by various Councils. The Secretary was uncertain of all the facts so it was decided that the item could not be taken any further without more information from Jackie.

Action: Secretary to inform Jackie that more information will be required for the next meeting, this can be delivered via the Northern Rep.

AOB

Nic T said that Fishguard had raised the point that they feel a bit isolated by just having the Regional Representative to discuss their opinions with, so wondered whether they could have an on-line forum. It was suggested that Nic could set up meetings within her own region to get people together for general rowing discussions, or possibly a closed Facebook group might be an idea to keep communication going.

Nic also asked whether it might be feasible for the WSRA to make a donation to the memorial fund for Jonathan Wiltshire, however, Andrew R believed that this may not be the correct thing for the association to do, as there may be many other similar situations which may come up in the future. Ynys Mon have taken a decision as a club to send over a donation at club level. A number of members present will be taking boats to support the event.

Laura K spoke about the BNY Mellon challenge, Fishguard to Rosslare, as they may have lost their safety team for the event. Chris H believed that this may have now been sorted out, but he would speak with the Celtic Challenge committee. He also raised a concern that they may not have chosen the safest route, as the one they had chosen goes right across a busy ferry channel.

Secretary for Helen Tan: The search for the previous coastal yoles that Welsh Rowing had access to and which may have gone to London

Helen wrote: I can find little about the boats, except that they were given to Ian Shore when he was National Head Coach, they sat in Channel View where our fleet of performance fine boats is based, and weren't used. I can't find the reasons for this, but ultimately, the boats were taken back by the company and then given to someone who would use them. They weren't ours I don't believe, they don't appear on any asset list or insurance document I can find. I don't think there are many avenues from here, given the length of time that has passed now.

The Secretary asked whether the WSRA would be sending any representatives to the Great Raft Run on 4th June, on the Menai Straits as the WSRA had an invitation to have a presence at the event, such as a stand to pull in membership, banners or flags with our logo, a demonstration on the water etc. Also the possibility of presenting a cheque to a local charity with the WSRA banner in the background.

No Executive committee members were available to attend on that weekend, so it was suggested that local clubs be asked whether they would like to attend. If they agree, the existing flags could be collected off Carol D at one of the joint league races, at either Fishguard or New Quay.

Action: Secretary to email Caernarfon and Beaumaris clubs and send them all the details from the original email to ask if they would like to send anyone.

Richard G asked if he could have the go ahead to buy the boat cover for the WSRA Celtic as part of his maintenance project. This was agreed.

Date of Next Meeting

Sunday 23rd July 2017